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# THE CLASSICAL JOURNAL

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## Editorial

### THE ATLANTA MEETING

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of our Association, held in Atlanta for three days beginning with Thursday, April 10, was a notable success. The local committee had made careful plans for our comfort and entertainment; the hospitality shown the visitors was such as would be expected in Georgia's capital. From the hour of arrival to that of departure, there was not a dull moment. As a fitting supplement to each day's rather strenuous formal program, wise and generous provision had been made for social relaxation. Our president, Professor Campbell Bonner, of the University of Michigan, was unavoidably absent on account of illness, but the duties of his office were tactfully administered by Professor Charles E. Little, of the George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

At the first session held Thursday afternoon in the auditorium of the Piedmont Hotel, Mr. M. L. Brittain, Superintendent of Schools for the State of Georgia, delivered an address on "The Value of Classics in the Schools." This address was of peculiar value as coming from a man who long was head of the department of languages in the Atlanta Boys' High School and who now is thoroughly conversant with the conditions and needs of the secondary schools throughout his state. He thinks that the arguments against classical training have had more weight in our higher institutions of learning than in the secondary schools. He feels

that not more than a fourth of the pupils in the high schools have any special aptitude for languages. Accordingly, in the larger schools, where there is a wide choice of electives, the classics will continue to have a prominent place; but in the smaller schools of the village and the country, science and the study of nature will of necessity be most emphasized.

The address of welcome was delivered Thursday evening by Bishop Warren A. Candler, Chancellor of Emory University, who emphasized the value of classical studies as a foundation for all learned professions. This he illustrated by citing the examples of numerous statesmen and men of science. Professor Little spoke in reply to Bishop Candler's very cordial address of welcome. At the same session, in the absence of Professor Thomas H. Billings, of the University of Chattanooga, who was on the program, Professor Alfred W. Mildner, of the University of Mississippi, kindly consented to read a very instructive paper on "The Father of History."

Friday was a very full day. The morning session, held at Emory University, was devoted to "A Conference on Methods of Latin Teaching in High Schools and Normal Schools," under the direction of Professor Josiah B. Game, of the Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee. With his usual skill, Professor Game had already aroused much interest in the topics to be discussed, and when, after the formal papers, the numerous questions raised were thrown open for general discussion, it constantly required keen watchfulness to decide among the numerous contestants for the floor. Particularly noticeable was the interest shown by high-school teachers, who from personal experience had many practical suggestions to offer. While some spoke in defense of the standard Latin requirements, as indicated in our program, the majority seemed to favor a smaller amount of text with the consequent opportunity for more thorough preparation and drill. One eminent teacher from a preparatory school maintained, rightly I think, that the college had the right to set any standard for entrance which it saw fit, and the preparatory teacher, in turn, had a perfect right to teach as much of anything in any way as might enable the pupil to meet the standard of excellence required

by the college. Of special interest was the talk on "Some Suggestions for Teachers of Latin in the High Schools," by Professor Harry Clark, State Inspector of High Schools in Tennessee. Professor Clark is a classically trained man who is a teacher of Education in the State University, and Tennessee can indeed be congratulated that its secondary schools come under the inspection of a man of his deep sense of responsibility and of his high ideals.

At noon the members of the Association enjoyed a real, old-fashioned barbecue, prepared before their eyes, on the campus of Emory University. The carvers and the ladies in charge of the serving displayed all the generous traits of the *δαιτρός* and the *αἰδοίη ταμίη* of Homeric times. After they had dispelled their desire for food and drink, the members of the Association again assembled to hear the papers scheduled for the afternoon. At the close of this session, automobiles, provided by the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, were in waiting to carry us through the beautiful and historic city.

Friday evening a place of meeting was furnished by Agnes Scott College, and of considerable interest for the history of classical studies in America was the paper of Professor Milton W. Humphreys, of the University of Virginia, dealing with "The Roman Pronunciation of Latin." Professor Humphreys made it pretty clear that he, while a young teacher at Washington College, was really the first to introduce the Roman pronunciation of Latin into this country. At the conclusion of the program a very delightful reception was tendered the members of the Association by the faculty and the seniors of Agnes Scott College.

On Saturday morning Dean Andrew F. West spoke on "The Proposed Classical League," which was officially indorsed by our Association. Professor W. R. Webb, of the Webb School, Bellbuckle, Tennessee, read a paper on "Colonel William Bingham as a Latin Teacher." This paper called forth frequent applause, and it was voted that it be published as soon as practicable in the *Classical Journal*.

At the business session a question of vital importance came up—the desirability and feasibility of breaking up our Association into two closely related groups. Some members have long

felt that the extensive territory covered by our Association will always necessitate a place of meeting inaccessible to the great majority of the members. Some felt that in case there could be organized a Southern section and a Middle Western section, each could provide a place of meeting which would be within reasonable distance for all its members. The supporters of this plan pointed out that at the present time few high-school teachers are able to attend a distant meeting. They rightly feel that the cause of classical studies is closely bound up with the high school and that it is of the greatest importance that college teachers and high-school teachers should be able to meet and discuss their common problems. Others thought that at the present time the united effort of the larger territory should not be dissipated; that it was more inspiring to come in contact with teachers from somewhat remote places; that local advancement could be still more effectively brought about if the classical teachers, in addition to their work in our present organization, would ally themselves with any teachers' organization now existing in the various states; that experience elsewhere had shown that even within a restricted territory there are inevitable obstacles to prevent most teachers from attending even a nearby place of meeting; that after all, distances are merely relative. The proposal for separation came from certain members of the southern states and strongest opposition came from the same section. It seemed unwise to take final action before the general sentiment of the South was ascertained. A committee was appointed to report on this matter for action at our next annual meeting.

Saturday afternoon Director Charles Upson Clark, of the American Academy in Rome, gave an illustrated lecture, describing "How Italy Protected Her Works of Art."

The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Professor Gordon J. Laing, The University of Chicago; First Vice-President, Professor G. C. Scoggin, The University of Missouri; Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Louis E. Lord, Oberlin College.

G. C. S.